Under these regulations, a power producer with a capacity of 250 MW and above can seek connectivity to the inter-State transmission system and seek long-term access (12-25 years) or medium term open access (3 months to 3 years) for selling this power to any State. However, a power producer of any capacity connected to the inter-State transmission system may also seek long term access or medium term open access for selling the power outside the State after getting concurrence of the SLDC (State Load Despatch Centre).

(b) As per procedure, the draft CERC (Grant of Connectivity, Long-term Access and Medium-term Open Access in Inter-State Transmission and related matters) Regulations, 2009 were put on the web-site and comments sought from all stakeholders. A public hearing was also held by Commission. After consideration of which the final regulations were notified on 7th August, 2009. These regulations are for grant of connectivity, long-term access and medium-term open access in inter-State Transmission and related matters.

(c) These regulations are yet to come in force. As per the regulations, these shall become effective after approval of the detailed procedures of CTU by the CERC. In this regard, POWERGRID, as CTU has already submitted the detailed procedures for approval to CERC on 10th November, 2009 and the same is under consideration by CERC.

Mega power policy

1964. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently made major changes in the mega power policy and States have been allowed to purchase power from Mega Power Plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the States have been directed to carry out distribution reforms as laid down by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent the shortage of power in the States would be met by the above changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Government has approved the following changes in the existing Mega Power Policy:-

(i) The existing condition of privatization of distribution by power purchasing States would be replaced by the condition that power purchasing States shall undertake to carry out distribution reforms as laid down by Ministry of Power (MoP).

(ii) The condition requiring inter-State sale of power for getting mega power status would be removed.

(iii) The present dispensation of 15% price preference available to the domestic bidders in case of cost plus projects of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) would continue. However, the price preference will not apply to tariff based competitively bid projects of PSUs.

(iv) The developers of mega power project would not be required to undertake International Competitive Bidding (ICB) for procurement of equipment for the mega power project if the requisite quantum of Power has been tied up through tariff based competitive bidding or the project has been awarded through tariff based competitive bidding.

(v) All benefits, except a basic custom duty of 2.5% only, available under mega power policy would be extended to expansion unit(s) of existing mega power projects even if the total capacity of expansion unit(s) is less than the threshold qualifying capacity, provided the size of the unit(s) is not less than that provided in the earlier phase of the project. All other conditions for grant of the mega power status shall remain same.

(vi) Mega Power Projects may sell power outside long term PPA(s) in accordance with the National Electricity Policy 2005 and Tariff policy 2006, as amended from time to time.

(d) and (d) In view of the decision stated at sub-para (i) above, the power purchasing States are required to undertaken to carry out distribution reforms as laid down by Ministry of Power.

(e) Mega power policy aims at deriving economies of scale by setting up large size power plants. Mega Power Policy, in its present form, has played a vital role in the development of power sector. The modified policy will simplify the procedure for grant of mega certificate and facilitate quicker capacity addition, thus bridging the demand-supply gap of power in the country.

Progress of power projects

1965. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently asked the States to expedite completion of power projects and check slippages for the proper growth of power sector;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held with the State Governments and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has also expressed concern at the tardy progress of reforms in power sector; and